

Police Chief Jesse Curry, JFK Assassination Figure

DALLAS (AP)—Former Dallas police chief Jesse Curry, 66, who headed the department when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated here in 1963, has died of a heart attack.

He collapsed at home shortly before 11 p.m. Sunday and was pronounced dead on arrival at Baylor University Medical Center.

Mr. Curry and his 1,100-man force captured accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald within 90 minutes of the Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy assassination in downtown Dallas.

But two days later a storm of criticism erupted after Jack Ruby slipped into the City Hall basement and shot Oswald to death during a jail transfer. That shooting was seen by millions on live national television.

Two-and-a-half years later, on

March 10, 1966, Mr. Curry resigned from the force and became chief of security for a large bank. At the time, he said tensions of the office were affecting his health.

"The worst thing that ever happened to us was Jack Ruby," Mr. Curry said. "I wake up every now and then at 2 and 3 in the morning thinking about Kennedy, Oswald and Ruby can't go back to sleep."

Ruby died of cancer in 1967.

Mr. Curry became chief in 1960 after working his way up through the ranks. He joined the force as a patrolman in 1936, when his salary was \$89 a month.

He was born in Hamilton, Tex., in 1913, the son of a policeman who later became a preacher. The family moved to Dallas when he was 6 months old.



1963 Photo

JESSE CURRY